

IN THE CLAIMS:

Would the Office kindly amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) An assembly for transferring a fluid from a vessel having a body with a reduced diameter neck at one end thereof and other end being open, a slidable piston positioned within the body through the open end, and a vial having a penetrable seal, the assembly comprising:

a) a housing having first and second open ends and a bore extending between the first and second open ends, the housing being removably connectable to the piston through said open end of said vessel;

b) a conduit having first and second ends and first and second apertures adjacent to the first and second ends, respectively, the conduit being longitudinally slidable within the bore between a retracted position in which the first aperture is positioned within the housing and an activated position in which the first aperture protrudes through the piston into the body of the vessel when the housing is connected to the piston [[;]], said bore having a first portion thereof sized such that said housing provides support to said conduit;

c) a biasing member mounted within a second portion of said bore and being designed to exert pressure on said conduit when said conduit is in the activated position;

[[c]] d) a vial socket assembly having a vial socket for receiving and engaging a neck portion of the vial and a hollow piercing member having a first open end in fluid communication with the conduit and a second open end for piercing the penetrable seal, the vial socket assembly moveable longitudinally relative to the housing in concert with the conduit, a second end of said conduit being releasably connected to said vial socket

assembly;

whereby advancing the vial socket assembly longitudinally towards the housing advances the conduit from the retracted position to the activated position to fluidly connect the vessel and the vial.

2. (original) An assembly according to Claim 1 wherein the first end of the conduit has a piercing member and the aperture is an opening adjacent to a tip of the piercing member.
3. (previously presented) An assembly according to Claim 2 wherein said second end of said conduit has a hub for connecting to said vial socket assembly.
4. (previously presented) An assembly according to Claim 3 wherein the vial socket assembly further comprises a post for receiving said second end of said conduit.
5. (original) An assembly according to Claim 4 wherein the hub forms a female luer slip and the post forms a male luer slip that is releasably receivable in the female luer slip.
6. (original) An assembly according to Claim 5 wherein the bore of the housing has a first portion, a second portion adjacent to the first portion, and a shoulder formed between the first and second portions.
7. (currently amended) An assembly according to Claim 6 ~~further comprising a~~ wherein said resilient biasing member is positioned between the shoulder and the hub to bias the conduit into the retracted position.
8. (original) An assembly according to Claim 7 wherein the resilient biasing member is a spring.
9. (original) An assembly according to Claim 1 wherein the first end of the conduit has a blunt end and the first aperture is an opening on a sidewall of the conduit.
10. (canceled)

11. (original) An assembly according to Claim 1 further comprising a retaining member in the vial socket for retaining a vial within the vial socket.
12. (original) An assembly according to Claim 11, wherein the retaining member comprises an annular ridge on an interior surface of the vial socket, the annular ridge having a smaller diameter than the diameter of the vial socket.
13. (original) An assembly according to Claim 11, wherein the retaining member comprises a plurality of retaining latches provided in the vial socket.
14. (original) An assembly according to Claim 1 wherein the vessel is a syringe having a neck with a needle mount for removably mounting a needle thereon and a flange adjacent the open end.
15. (original) An assembly according to Claim 14 further comprising a piston backstop positioned adjacent the flange, the piston backstop having a retaining member for retaining the housing in spaced relation from the piston.
16. (original) An assembly according to Claim 15 wherein the piston backstop is shaped and sized to slidably receive the housing.
17. (original) An assembly according to Claim 16 wherein the piston backstop is removably connectable to the flange.
18. (original) An assembly according to Claim 17 wherein the syringe is glass.
19. (original) An assembly according to Claim 18 further comprising a sheath assembly positioned over the neck of the syringe, the sheath assembly removably connectable to the piston backstop.
20. (original) An assembly according to Claim 15 wherein the syringe is plastic and the piston backstop is integrally molded with the syringe.

21. (original) An assembly according to Claim 1 wherein the vessel is a cartridge having a neck with a penetrable closure and a cap to retain the penetrable closure thereon.

22. (original) An assembly according to Claim 21 further comprising a sheath assembly positioned over the neck of the cartridge and a piston backstop removably connectable to the sheath assembly, the piston backstop having a retaining member for retaining the housing in spaced relation from the piston.

23. (original) An assembly according to Claim 21 further comprising a piston backstop positioned adjacent the open end of the cartridge, the piston backstop having a retaining member for retaining the housing in spaced relation from the piston.

24. (original) An assembly according to Claim 23 wherein the cartridge is plastic and the piston backstop is integrally molded with the cartridge.

25. (canceled)

26. (canceled)

27. (canceled)

28. (canceled)

29. (currently amended) In combination, a syringe having a syringe body, a fluid within said syringe body, a first end of said syringe body being open, a slidable piston positioned within the body proximate the open end, a second end having a neck with a needle mount for removably mounting a needle thereon;

a vial having a penetrable seal, said vial containing a medicant;

a transfer assembly for transferring a fluid from said syringe to said vial and subsequently retransferring the medicant and fluid to said syringe, the assembly comprising a housing having first and second open ends and a bore extending between said first and

second open ends, the housing being removably connected to the piston;

a conduit having first and second ends and first and second apertures adjacent to said first and second ends respectively, the conduit being longitudinally slidable within the bore between a retracted position wherein the first aperture is positioned within the housing and an activated position in which said first aperture projects through the piston into the body of the vessel said bore having a portion thereof sized such that said housing provides support to said conduit;

a biasing member mounted within a second portion of said bore and being designed to exert pressure on said conduit when said conduit is in the activated position;

a vial socket assembly having a vial socket for receiving and engaging at least a portion of the vial including the penetrable seal, a hollow piercing member having a first open end in fluid communication with the conduit and a second open end having a spike for piercing the penetrable seal, the vial socket assembly being moveable longitudinally relative to the housing in concert with said conduit, a second end of said conduit being releasably connected to said vial socket assembly;

the arrangement being such that advancing the vial socket assembly longitudinally towards the housing advances the conduit from the retracted position to an activated position to fluidly connect the vessel and the vial.

30. (previously presented) The combination according to Claim 29 wherein the first end of the conduit has a piercing member and the first aperture is an opening adjacent to a tip of the piercing member.

31. (previously presented) The combination according to Claim 30 wherein said second end of said conduit has a hub connected to said vial socket assembly.

32. (previously presented) The combination according to Claim 31 wherein the vial socket assembly further comprises a post on which said second end of said conduit is mounted.
33. (previously presented) The combination according to Claim 32 wherein the hub forms a female luer slip and the post forms a male luer slip that is releasably received in the female luer slip.
34. (previously presented) The combination according to Claim 33 wherein the bore of the housing has a first portion, a second portion adjacent to the first portion, and a shoulder formed between the first and second portions.
35. (currently amended) The combination according to Claim 34 ~~further comprising a~~ wherein said resilient biasing member is positioned between the shoulder and the hub to bias the conduit into the retracted position
36. (previously presented) The combination according to Claim 35 wherein the resilient biasing member is a spring.
37. (previously presented) The combination according to Claim 29, including a retaining member for said vial and which comprises an annular ridge on an interior surface of the vial socket, the annular ridge having a smaller diameter than the diameter of the vial socket.
38. (previously presented) The combination according to Claim 37, wherein the retaining member comprises a plurality of retaining latches provided in the vial socket.
39. (previously presented) The combination according to Claim 29 wherein the vessel is a syringe having a neck with a needle mount for removably mounting a needle thereon and a flange adjacent the open end.
40. (previously presented) The combination according to Claim 39 further comprising a

piston backstop positioned adjacent the flange, the piston backstop having a retaining member for retaining the housing in spaced relation from the piston.

41. (previously presented) The combination according to Claim 40 wherein the piston backstop is shaped and sized to slidably receive the housing.

42. (previously presented) The combination according to Claim 41 wherein the piston backstop is removably connectable to the flange.

43. (previously presented) The combination according to Claim 40 further comprising a sheath assembly positioned over the neck of the syringe, the sheath assembly removably connectable to the piston backstop.

44. (previously presented) The combination according to Claim 40 wherein the syringe is plastic and the piston backstop is integrally molded with the syringe.

45. (previously presented) The combination according to Claim 29 further comprising a sheath assembly positioned over the neck of the cartridge and a piston backstop removably connectable to the sheath assembly, the piston backstop having a retaining member for retaining the housing in spaced relation from the piston.